

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for switching data of different protocols through a network are described. In one embodiment, a method includes receiving data from a number of interfaces. Additionally, the method includes switching the data through a first switch fabric upon determining that the data is being processed as packet data. The switching of the data through the first switch fabric includes de-encapsulating a first number of protocol headers from the packet data. The switching of the data through the first switch fabric also includes encapsulating a second number of protocol headers from the packet data. Moreover, the method includes switching the data through a second switch fabric upon determining that the data is being processed as Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) traffic.